Arrest of Infiltrators in Jammu and Kashmir

3070. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Security Forces foiled an infiltration bid by ultras under the shelling protection by Pakistani Rangers in Keran Sector in Jammu and Kashmir on 31st May;

(b) if so, how many such infiltrators, alongwith explosive materials were arrested and has any link with terrorist organisations been established; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to seal Indian borders to eliminate such attempts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There was moderate exchange of fire in Keran Sector on 30 and 31 May, 1998. One of the primary aims of Pak firing along the Line of Control (LOC) is to abet infiltration. However, there were no reports of any infiltration in this sector on 31 May, 1998.

(c) Due to the difficult nature of terrain and extensive length of the border it is not feasible to hermetically seal it. However, with the vigil maintained by the security forces along Line of Control, the attempts at infiltration at different places have been curbed to a great extent.

Barrels of T-72 Tanks

3071. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that barrels of 33 T-72 tanks have burst out while firing at different times;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry is being conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the responsibility fixed and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Incidence of barrel bursts up to November, 1997 was 33. Of these, 17 barrels were imported from the erstwhile USSR and 16 were of indigenous origin. The indigenous manufacture of barrels had been established in accordance with the technology regime of the collaborator and under the supervision of Russian specialists.

2. A Committee which included specialists of the Director General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI), Ordanance Factory Board (OFB) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted investigations associating also Russian specialists. Failures have occured with use of both imported and indigenous ammunition. In the absence of any particular pattern of failure of barrels, no definitive conclusions could be drawn of the failures. It has emerged technical details regarding pressures and velocities within the barrel are necessary from the Russian side and that the ranges and tollerances that appertain in regard to the design, material, manufacturing processes and operation of these barrel need precise determiniation. This would need to be done by the Committee having regard to the relative ambience of operations in India and Russia. Meanwhile, maufacturing methods to increase the strength of the barrels have also been put on hand through indigenous innovation.

Reimbursement of House Rent to Defence Service Personnel

3072. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government employees have been paid House Rent Reimbursement (HRR) in case they arrange accommodation for themselves at